

# **Sacagawea: Factual Information from Original Sources**

**A Research Monograph on the information and misinformation surrounding  
the life of Sacagawea, member of the Corps of Discovery under the command of  
Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, 1805-1806**



**FIRST EDITION 2018**

**Historic Trails Press  
Ames, Iowa  
2018**



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### Cover Photo

Sacagawea statue at Lewis-Clark State College  
Lewiston, Idaho

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By Steve F. Russell, PhD., P.E.

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# SACAGAWEA

SACAGAWEA was as tenacious, competent, and resourceful as any other member of the Expedition.

SACAGAWEA was much respected by the Captains and is described in very favorable terms in the Journals.

SACAGAWEA'S principal reason for joining the expedition was to be an interpreter to translate between Shoshoni and Hidatsa so the Expedition could have good relations with the Lemhi Shoshoni and trade for horses.

SACAGAWEA facilitated friendly relationships with tribes along the way by means of her and her baby's presence – indicating the Expedition was not a war party.

SACAGAWEA recognized her home country and was able to identify familiar landmarks. In essence, her input gave the Expedition confidence that they were following the correct route.

SACAGAWEA supported the mission of the Expedition by gathering plant foods and plant medicines. The plant food was a much-needed source of carbohydrates.

SACAGAWEA rendered general assistance to the Expedition in every way she possibly could.





**Sacagawea Dollar**

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## PREFACE

Sacagawea is an intriguing figure in western American history. A great volume of literature has been devoted to telling about her life. Unfortunately, most of what is written about her is fanciful and fiction. The same fictions are repeated over and over until, today, they have achieved the status of ‘truth.’

The book “Sacajawea: A Guide and Interpreter of the Lewis and Clark Expedition,” 1933, by the well known, and respected, Wyoming historian, Grace Raymond Hebard, has been used as an ‘original source’ of information for many books and web pages that report the fiction as fact. I read the book and really enjoyed it but I knew it was fiction. I think Hebard would be appalled if she could see what has happened today.

My writing of this short report was motivated by the desire to give serious Lewis and Clark scholars, particularly those new to the area, a canonical form of what is actually known about Sacagawea from the original sources.

I apologize for any Journal entries that may have been overlooked, or mistakenly applied. Perhaps, future scholars will improve upon this report for future generations.

The tide of misinformation about Sacagawea has been rising so long, and with such force, that it will never be corrected, but at least this report gives motivated scholars a basis on which to write factually about her life.

## WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT SACAGAWEA

Here is a partial list of things we do know factually about Sacagawea:

1. When she gave birth to Jean Baptist Charbonneau, (February 11, 1805).
2. She was not the only wife of Toussaint Charbonneau.
3. She was chosen to be an interpreter for the expedition because she knew how to speak both Hidatsa and Shoshoni.
4. She wanted Clark to raise her son.
5. She translated for the expedition when they bargained for horses with her brother’s band, the Lemhi Shoshoni.
6. She was a sister to Cameahwait, a Lemhi Shoshoni leader.
7. She was a plant specialist (Herbalist) and gathered and recommended medicinal plants when she thought expedition members needed them.
8. She gathered plant food that was an essential carbohydrate for the Expedition’s diet.
9. She identified three landmarks in her original home territory, Three Forks, Beaver Head Rock, and Bozeman Pass.



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### **WHAT ARE THE FALSEHOODS ABOUT SACAGAWEA**

The following is a partial list of comments refuting claims made in the false literature:

1. She was not a guide for the expedition.
2. She was not romantically involved with either Lewis or Clark.
3. She was not a navigator and performed no navigation function for the Expedition.
4. She was not a counselor but she did offer unsolicited advice about the use of medicinal plants.
5. Her reunion with her brother was not a particularly happy one. He was dispassionate about meeting her. However, other tribal members welcomed her with joy.
6. She did not marry a 'foreigner.' Although Charbonneau was not a Lemhi Shoshoni, he was a resident of the area.
7. She was not a mysterious woman. There are many Journal entries telling about her.
8. She was not a peacemaker or diplomat for the expedition. However, the Captains acknowledged the presence of her and her baby as a signal they had peaceful intentions.
9. She did not "make the expedition possible." It would have happened without her.
11. Hebard's book did not rescue her from obscurity. She has always been a popular heroine in American history.

### **WHAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT SACAGAWEA**

Here is a partial list of things we don't know factually about Sacagawea:

1. Her date of birth (her age).
2. Her age at death.
3. Her age when she became wife to Toussaint Charbonneau.
4. Her age when she gave birth to Jean Baptist Charbonneau. Reports in the literature that say she was sixteen are not based on any original, factual information. We do know the date she gave birth because it is in the Journals.
5. The exact place where she was born.
6. Her life before or after the expedition.
7. Her name has no factual, modern, spelling or pronunciation. We only have the variable phonetic spellings in the Journals. Today's scholars

## **Sacagawea: Factual Information from Original Sources**

acknowledge three spelling variations; Sacajawea, Sacagawea, and Sakakawea. The most commonly used spelling is Sacagawea.

### **SACAGAWEA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES (1805-1806)**

The following table lists Sacajawea's accomplishments and activities with the applicable Journal references:

#### **INTERPRETER**

**April 7, 1805 Clark**

**November 3, 1805 Clark**

**March 22, 1806 Ordway**

**April 28, 1806 Clark**

**May 11, 1806 Clark**

#### **HERBALIST AND FOOD GATHERER**

**April 9, 1805 Lewis**

**April 30, 1805 Clark**

**May 8, 1805 Clark**

**May 20, 1805 Lewis**

**June 19, 1805 Lewis**

**August 16, 1805 Whitehouse**

**April 28, 2006 Lewis**

**May 16, 1806 Lewis**

**May 16, 1806 Clark**

**May 18, 1806 Lewis**

**May 18, 1806 Clark**

**July 9, 1806 Clark**

**August 9, 1806 Clark**

#### **GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

**May 14, 1805 Clark**

**May 16, 1805 Lewis**

**May 29, 1805 Lewis**

**July 19, 1805 Lewis**

**August 25, 1805 Lewis**

**April 22, 1806 Lewis**

**May 2, 1806 Whitehouse**

#### **RECOGNIZED HER HOME COUNTRY**

**June 30, 1805 Whitehouse**

**July 22, 1805 Lewis**

**July 22, 1805 Whitehouse**

**July 24, 1805 Lewis**

**July 25, 1805 Whitehouse**

**July 27, 1805 Whitehouse**

**July 28, 1805 Lewis**

**July 28, 1805 Gass**

**July 30, 1805 Lewis**

**July 30, 1805 Whitehouse**

**July 30, 1805 Ordway**

**July 6, 1806 Clark**

**July 14, 1806 Clark**

## **Sacagawea: Factual Information from Original Sources**

### **IDENTIFIED HOMELAND LANDMARKS**

**August 8, 1805 Lewis**  
**July 13, 1806 Clark**  
**July 14, 1806 Clark**

### **FACILITATED FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIPS**

**August 17, 1805 Lewis**  
**August 17, 1805 Clark**  
**October 19, 1805 Clark**

### **ILLNESSES**

<b>June 10, 1805 Lewis</b>	<b>June 18, 1805 Lewis</b>
<b>June 10, 1805 Ordway</b>	<b>June 19, 1805 Lewis</b>
<b>June 11, 1805 Clark</b>	<b>June 20, 1805 Lewis</b>
<b>June 13, 1805 Clark</b>	<b>June 24, 1805 Lewis</b>
<b>June 14, 1805 Clark</b>	<b>June 15, 1806 Clark</b>
<b>June 15, 1805 Clark</b>	<b>June 16, 1806 Lewis</b>
<b>June 16, 1805 Lewis</b>	<b>June 16, 1806 Clark</b>
<b>June 17, 1805 Clark</b>	

### **MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES**

<b>February 11, 1806 Lewis</b>	<b>August 17, 1805 Whitehouse</b>
<b>April 7, 1805 Lewis</b>	<b>August 20, 1805 Lewis</b>
<b>April 18, 1805 Clark</b>	<b>August 22, 1805 Lewis</b>
<b>May 20, 1805 Lewis</b>	<b>November 8, 1805 Clark</b>
<b>June 22, 1805 Lewis</b>	<b>November 20, 1806 Clark</b>
<b>June 22, 1805 Clark</b>	<b>November 30, 1806 Clark</b>
<b>June 29, 1805 Lewis</b>	<b>December 25, 1806 Clark</b>
<b>June 29, 1805 Clark</b>	<b>January 6, 1806 Clark</b>
<b>July 13, 1805 Lewis</b>	<b>April 16, 1806 Lewis</b>
<b>August 14, 1805 Lewis</b>	<b>May 11, 1806 Clark</b>
<b>August 15, 1805 Lewis</b>	<b>July 1, 1806 Lewis</b>
<b>August 15, 1805 Clark</b>	<b>August 17, 1806 Clark</b>
<b>August 17, 1805 Ordway</b>	

# Sacagawea: Factual Information from Original Sources

## ORIGINAL SOURCES

Here is a list of the three original sources for information about Sacagawea.

1. Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Gary Moulton, Ed., University of Nebraska Press (web page) and the set of hardcover book volumes: "The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition," Gary E. Moulton, Ed., University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 12 Volumes, 1983-1999.
2. John C. Luttig's Journal entry for Dec 20, 1812.
3. Clark's Cash Book (1825-1828). It is a terse listing of what has happened to the Expedition since returning in 1806. Its notation says that Sacagawea is dead. A good source of information is from: The "Indianization of Lewis and Clark" By William R. Swagerty 2012 (page 693)

## INFORMATION FROM THE ORIGINAL SOURCES

### Primary Sources for Sacajawea Information – The Journals

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/>

The following list of Journal entries are in chronological order and represent the information we know from this primary source. All entries are from the University of Nebraska website. It is unfortunate that entries from Biddle, and others was inserted into the Journal text. This can create confusion as to what is actually original text. These non-Journal entries have been removed. There are 59 Journal entries for 1805 and 22 Journal entries for 1806.

#### February 11, 1805 Lewis

about five oclock this evening **one of the wives** of Charbono was delivered of a fine boy. it is worthy of remark that this was the first child which **this woman** had boarn and as is common in such cases **her labour** was tedious and the pain violent; Mr. Jessome informed me that he had freequently adminstered a small portion of the rattle of the rattle-snake, which he assured me had never failed to produce the desired effect, that of hastening the birth of the child; having the rattle of a snake by me I gave it to him and he administered two rings of it to **the woman** broken in small pieces with the fingers and added to a small quantity of water. Whether this medicine was truly the cause or not I shall not undertake to determine, but I was informed that **she** had not taken it more than ten minutes before she brought forth

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### April 7, 1805 Lewis

I took an early supper this evening and went to bed. Capt. Clark myself the two Interpreters and [the woman and child](#) sleep in a tent of dressed skins.

Our party now consisted of the following Individuals. Sergts. John Ordway, Nathaniel Prior, & Patric Gass; Privates, William Bratton, John Colter, Reubin, and Joseph Fields, John Shields, George Gibson, George Shannon, John Potts, John Collins, Joseph Whitehouse, Richard Windsor, Alexander Willard, Hugh Hall, Silas Goodrich, Robert Frazier, Crouzatt, John Baptist la Page, Francis Labiech, Hue McNeal, William Werner, Thomas P. Howard, Peter Wiser, and John B. Thompson.—

Interpreters, George Drewyer and Tauasant Charbono; also a Black man by the name of York, servant to Capt. Clark, an [Indian Woman, wife to Charbono, with a young child](#), and a Mandan man who had promised us to accompany us as far as the Snake Indians with a view to bring about a good understanding and friendly intercourse between that nation and his own, the Minetares and Ahwahharways.

### April 7, 1805 Clark

Sunday, at 4 oClock P M, the Boat, in which was 6 Soldiers 2 frenchmen & an Indian, all under the command of a corporal who had the charge of dispatches, &c.—and a Canoe with 2 french men, Set out down the river for St. Louis. at the same time we Sout out on our voyage up the river in 2 perogues and 6 canoes, and proceeded on to the 1st villg. of Mandans & Camped on the S. S.— our party consisting of Sergt. Nathaniel Pryor Sgt. John Ordway Sgt. Pat: Gass, William Bratten, John Colter Joseph & Reubin Fields, John Shields George Gibson George Shannon, John Potts, John Collins, Jos: Whitehouse, Richard Windser, Alexander Willard, Hugh Hall, Silas Gutrich, Robert Frazure, Peter Crouzat, John Baptist la page, Francis Labich, Hugh McNeal, William Werner, Thomas P. Howard, Peter Wiser, J. B. Thompson and my Servent york, George Drewyer who acts as a hunter & interpreter, [Shabonah and his Indian Squar to act as an Interpreter & interpretress for the snake Indians](#)

### April 9, 1805 Lewis

when we halted for dinner [the squaw](#) busied herself in serching for the wild artichokes which the mice collect and deposit in larger hoards. this operation [she](#) performed by penetrating the earth with a sharp stick about some small collections of drift wood. [her labour](#) soon proved successful, and she procurrd a good quantity of these roots.

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### April 18, 1805 Clark

after brackfast I assended a hill and observed that the river made a great bend to the South, I concluded to walk thro' the point about 2 miles and take Shabono, with me, he had taken a dost of Salts &c. his Squar followed on with his child, when I Struck the next bend of the [river] could See nothing of the Party, left this man & his wife & Child on the river bank and went out to hunt

### April 30, 1805 Clark

I walked on Shore to day our interpreter & his Squar followed, in my walk the Squar found & brought me a bush Something like the Current, which She Said bore a delicious froot and that great quantites grew on the Rocky Mountains

### May 8, 1805 Clark

the Countrey on the Lard. Side is high & broken with much Stone Scattered on the hills, in walking on Shore with the Interpreter & his wife, the Squar Geathered on the Sides of the hills wild Lickerish, & the white apple as called by the angegies and gave me to eat,

### May 14, 1805 Clark

the articles which floated out was nearly all caught by the Squar who was in the rear.

### May 16, 1805 Lewis

...ballance of our losses consisted of some gardin seeds, a small quantity of gunpowder, and a few culinary articles which fell overboard and sunk, the Indian woman to whom I ascribe equal fortitude and resolution, with any person onboard at the time of the accedent, caught and preserved most of the light articles which were washed overboard...

### May 20, 1805 Lewis

...about five miles abe the mouth of shell river a handsome river of about fifty yards in width discharged itself into the shell river on the Stard. or upper side; this stream we called Sâh-câ-gar me-âh or bird woman's River, after our interpreter the Snake woman.

### May 29, 1805 Lewis

Capt. Clark also saw a large encampent just above the entrance of this river on the Stard. side of reather older date, probably they were the same Indians. The Indian woman with us exmined the mockersons which we found at these



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encampments and informed us that they were not of [her](#) nation the Snake Indians

### June 10, 1805 Lewis

[Sâh-câh-gâh, we â, our Indian woman](#) is very sick this evening; Capt. C. bleed her.

### June 10, 1805 Ordway

Sah cah gah, our [Indian woman](#) verry Sick & was bled

### June 11, 1805 Clark

after night it became cold & the wind blew hard, the [Indian woman](#) verry Sick, I bleed her which appeared to be of great Service to her

### June 13, 1805 Clark

the [Indian woman](#) Verry sick ... one man Sick & 3 with Swellings, the [Indian woman](#) verry Sick.

### June 14, 1805 Clark

a fine morning, the [Indian woman](#) complaining all night & excessively bad this morning— her case is Somewhat dangerous...

### June 15, 1805 Clark

our [Indian woman](#) Sick & low Spirited I gave her the bark & apply it exteranally to her region which revived her much.

### June 16, 1805 Lewis

I found that two dozes of barks and opium which I had given [her](#) since my arrival had produced an alteration in [her](#) pulse for the better; they were now much fuller and more regular. I caused [her](#) to drink the mineral water altogether. wen I first came down I found that [her](#) pulse were scarcely perceptible, very quick frequently irregular and attended with strong nervous symptoms, that of the twitching of the fingers and leaders of the arm; now the pulse had become regular much fuller and a gentle perspiration had taken place; the nervous symptoms have also in a great measure abated, and [she](#) feels herself much freer from pain. [she](#) complains principally of the lower region of the abdomen, I therefore continued the cataplasms of barks and laudnumn which had been previously used by my friend Capt Clark. I beleive [her](#) disorder originated principally from an obstruction of the mensis in consequence of taking could —

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### June 17, 1805 Clark

The [Indian woman](#) much better today, I have still continued the same course of medicine; [she](#) is free from pain clear of fever, [her](#) pulse regular, and eats as heartily as I am willing to permit [her](#) of broiled buffaloe well seasoned with pepper and salt and rich soupe of the same meat; I think therefore that there is every rational hope of [her](#) recovery.

### June 18, 1805 Lewis

The [Indian woman](#) is recovering fast [she](#) set up the greater part of the day and walked out for the first time since [she](#) arrived here; [she](#) eats heartily and is free from fever or pain. I continue same course of medicine and regimen except that I added one doze of 15 drops of the oil of vitriol today about noon.

### June 19, 1805 Lewis

the [Indian woman](#) was much better this morning [she](#) walked out and gathered a considerable quantity of the white apples of which [she](#) eat so heartily in their raw state, together with a considerable quantity of dried fish without my knowledge that [she](#) complained very much and her fever again returned. I rebuked Sharbono severely for suffering [her](#) to indulge [herself](#) with such food he being privy to it and having been previously told what [she](#) must only eat. I now gave [her](#) broken dozes of diluted nitre untill it produced perspiration and at 10 P. M. 30 drops of laudnum which gave her a tolerable nights rest.

### June 20, 1805 Lewis

The [Indian woman](#) is quite free from pain and fever this morning and appears to be in a fair way for recovery, [she](#) has been walking about and fishing.

### June 22, 1805 Lewis

This morning early Capt Clark and myself with all the party except Sergt. Ordway Sharbono, Goodrich, York and the [Indian woman](#), set out to pass the portage with the canoe and baggage to the Whitebear Islands...

### June 22, 1805 Clark

a fine morning, Capt Lewis my Self and all the party except a Sergeant Ordway Guterich and the Interpreter and [his wife Sar car gah we â](#) (who are left at Camp to take Care of the baggage left) across the portage with one Canoe on truck wheels and loaded with a part of our Baggage...

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### June 24, 1805 Lewis

The [Indian woman](#) is now perfectly recovered. Capt. C. came a few miles this morning to see the party under way and returned.

### June 29, 1805 Lewis

accordingly he left one man at Willow run to guard the baggage and took with him his black man York, Sharbono and [his indian woman](#) also accompanied Capt. C. ... he took shelter near the river with Sharbono and the [Indian woman](#) ... seizing his gun and shot pouch with his left hand with the right he assisted himself up the steep bluff shoving occasionally the [Indian woman](#) before him who had [her](#) child in her arms; Sharbono had [the woman](#) by the hand endeavouring to pull [her](#) up the hill but was so much frightened that he remained frequently motionless and but for Capt. C. both himself and [his \[wo\]man and child](#) must have perished.

### June 29, 1805 Clark

I deturmined my Self to proceed on to the falls and take the river, according we all Set out, I took my Servent & one man Chabono our Interpreter & [his Squar](#) accompanied, Soon after I arrived at the falls...

### June 30, 1805 Whitehouse

[Our Interpreters Wife](#) the [Indian Woman](#), related to us, that between 3 & 4 Years ago [she](#) was taken prisoner at the forks of the three rivers, by a Warr party of the Gros Vaunters or Big belley Indians, and that [she](#) had attempted to make her escape, with some others of [her](#) nation, but that [she](#) was retaken by them in the Middle of the Priari which lies near to us, that 3 of [her](#) nation was killed along the Shore, by the same party, that [she](#) was taken by but that the greater part, of the party that [she](#) was along with (Snake Nation) had made their escape...

### July 13, 1805 Lewis

...I sent Charbono in his stead by water and the sick man and [Indian woman](#) accompanied me by land...

### July 19, 1805 Lewis

saw where the natives had pealed the bark off the pine trees about this same season. this the [indian woman](#) with us informs that they do to obtain the sap and soft part of the wood...

### July 22, 1805 Lewis

[The Indian woman](#) recognizes the country and assures us that this is the

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river on which her relations live, and that the three forks are at no great distance.

### July 22, 1805 Whitehouse

We passed this day through a very pleasant Country abounding with Currants &ca.— which grows along the Shores on both sides— [Our Interpreters Wife \(the Indian woman\)](#) informed us, that [she knows this Country](#), along the Shores of the River, up to her nation, (which are the Snake Indians) who she says lives at the 3 forks of this River.

### July 24, 1805 Lewis

the adjacent mountains commonly rise so high as to conceal the more distant and lofty mountains from our view. I fear every day that we shall meet with some considerable falls or obstruction in the river notwithstanding the information of the [Indian woman](#) to the contrary who assures us that the river continues much as we see it.

### July 25, 1805 Whitehouse

In the afternoon we passed some rough rocky hills, which we expect from the account we have from the [Indian Woman](#) that is with us, to be the commencement of the Second chain of the Rocky Mountains; but they do not appear, to be so high, as the first chain of Mountains which we have passed, nor so solid a rock at the entrance of them.

### July 27, 1805 Whitehouse

Our [Indian woman](#) informed us that she was taken prisoner at this place between 3 & 4 Years ago, by a party of the Gross Vaunter (or big Belley) Indians who had carried her away to their Nation

### July 28, 1805 Lewis

Our present camp is precisely on the spot that the Snake Indians were encamped at the time the Minnetares of the Knife R. first came in sight of them five years since. from hence they retreated about three miles up Jeffersons river and concealed themselves in the woods, the Minnetares pursued, attacked them, killed 4 men 4 women a number of boys, and mad prisoners of all the females and four boys, [Sah-cah-gar-we-ah or Indian woman](#) was one of the female prisoners taken at that time; tho' I cannot discover that [she](#) shews any immotion of sorrow in recollecting this events, or of joy in being again restored to [her](#) native country; if [she](#) has enough to eat and a few trinkets to wear I believe she would be perfectly content anywhere.

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### July 28, 1805 Gass

Our squaw informed us, that it was at this place she had been taken prisoner by the Grossventers 4 or 5 years ago.

### July 30, 1805 Lewis

Sharbono, his woman two invalleds and myself walked through the bottom of the Lard. side of the river about 4½ miles when we again struck it at the place the woman informed us that she was taken prisoner.

we dined and again proceeded on; as the river now passed through the woods the invalleds got on board together with Sharbono and the Indian woman; I passed the river and continued my walk on the Stard. side....

### July 30, 1805 Ordway

we dined at a Camp where the snake Indians had been camped 4 years ago, and was actacted by the Gross vauntaus. 2 or three of the Snake nation was killed, and Several Squaws taken prisoners our Intrepters wife was one of them. She tells us that She was taken in the middle of the River as She was crossing at a Shole place to make hir ascape.

### July 30, 1805 Whitehouse

Our Interpreters Wife the Indian Woman, related to us, that between 3 & 4 Years ago she was taken prisoner at the forks of the three rivers, by a Warr party of the Gros Vaunters or Big belley Indians, and that she had attempted to make her escape, with some others of her nation, but that she was retaken by them in the Middle of the Priari which lies near to us, that 3 of her nation was killed along the Shore, by the same party, that she was taken by but that the greater part, of the party that she was along with (Snake Nation) had made their escape.

### August 8, 1805 Lewis

the Indian woman recognized the point of a high plain to our right which she informed us was not very distant from the summer retreat of her nation on a river beyond the mountains which runs to the west. this hill she says her nation calls the beaver's head from a conceived remblance of it's figure to the head of that animal. she assures us that we shall either find her people on this river or on the river immediately west of it's source; which from it's present size cannot be very distant.

### August 14, 1805 Lewis

this evening Charbono struck his indian Woman for which Capt. C. gave

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him a severe reprimand.

### August 15, 1805 Lewis

at 4 miles by water from their encampment of last evening passed a bold branch which tumbled down a steep precipice of rocks from the mountains on the Lard. Capt Clark was very near being bitten twice today by rattlesnakes, the [Indian woman](#) also narrowly escaped.

### August 15, 1805 Clark

In walking on Shore I Saw Several rattle Snakes and narrowly escaped at two different times, as also [the Squar](#) when walking with her husband on Shore

### August 16, 1805 Whitehouse

Capt. Clark our [Intrepter & wife](#) walked on Shore and found a great number of fine berrys which is called Servis berrys. ... the [Indian Woman](#) gathered a pailfull of those berries, which [she](#) brought to our party at noon, where we had halted which was at a Grove of Cotton trees lying on the South side of the River.

### August 17, 1805 Lewis

Shortly after Capt. Clark arrived with the Interpreter Charbono, and the [Indian woman](#), who proved to be a [sister of the Chif Cameahwait](#). the meeting of those people was really affecting, particularly between [Sah cah-gar-we-ah and an Indian woman](#), who had been taken prisoner at the same time with [her](#), and who had afterwards escaped from the Minnetares and rejoined her nation.

### August 17, 1805 Clark

I had not proceeded on one mile before I saw at a distance Several Indians on horsback Comeing towards me, The Intertrepeter & [Squar](#) who were before me at Some distance danced for the joyful Sight, and [She](#) made signs to me that they were [her](#) nation, as I aproached nearer them discovered one of Capt Lewis party With them dressed in their Dress...

### August 17, 1805 Ordway

Capt. Clark the Intrepter [& wife](#) went with them to Capt. Lewis Camp.

### August 17, 1805 Whitehouse

heard Some Indians Singing on Shore on L. Side directly came up Several of the Snake nation a horseback. they told us that Capt. Lewis and party was at the forks waiting our arival. Capt. Clark the Intrepter [& wife](#) went with



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them to Capt. Lewis Camp.

Came to us & told us that Capt. Lewis & party was at the forks. Capt. Clark our Interpreter & wife went with the natives rode their horses to the forks.

### August 20, 1805 Lewis

at 3 P. M. Capt. Clark departed, accompanied by his guide and party except one man whom he left with orders to purchase a horse if possible and overtake him as soon as he could. he left Charbono and the indian woman to return to my camp with the Indians.

### August 22, 1805 Lewis

at 11 A. M., Charbono the Indian Woman, Cameahwait and about 50 men with a number of women and children arrived.

### August 25, 1805 Lewis

I was out of patience with the folly of Charbono who had not sufficient sagacity to see the consequences which would inevitably flow from such a movement of the indians, and altho' he had been in possession of this information since early in the morning when it had been communicated to him by his Indian woman yet he never mentioned it until the after noon. I could not forbear speaking to him with some degree of asperity on this occasion.

### October 19, 1805 Clark

this time Capt. Lewis came down with the Canoes rear in which the Indians, as Soon as they Saw the Squar wife of the interpereters they pointed to her and informed those who continued yet in the Same position I first found them, they imediately all came out and appeared to assume new life, the sight of This Indian woman, wife to one of our interprs. confirmed those people of our friendly intentions, as no woman ever accompanies a war party of Indians in this quarter

### November 3, 1805 Clark

a Canoe arrived from the village below the last rapid with a man his wife and 3 children, and a woman whome had been taken prisoner from the Snake Inds. I Sent the Interpreters wife who is a So So ne or Snake Indian of the Missouri, to Speake to this Squar, they Could not understand each other Sufficiently to Converse.

### November 8, 1805 Clark

The Swells were So high and the Canoes roled in Such a manner as to cause

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Several to be very Sick. Reuben fields, Wiser McNeal & [the Squar](#) were of the number

### November 20, 1805 Clark

many Indians about one of which had on a robe made of 2 Sea Otter Skins. Capt Lewis offered him many things for his Skins with others a blanket, a coat all of which he refused we at length purchased it for a belt of Blue Beads which [the Squar](#) had.

### November 21, 1805 Whitehouse

They at last purchas'd it from them for a Belt which had a number of beads on it, which our officers procured from the [Indian woman](#) our Interpreter

### November 30, 1805 Clark

The [Squar](#), gave me a piece of Bread to day made of Some flower She had Carefully kept for her child, and had unfortunately got wet

### December 25, 1805 Clark

...& 2 Doz weasels tales of the [Squar of Shabono](#)...

### January 6, 1806 Clark & Lewis

Charbono and [his Indian woman](#) were also of the party; [the Indian woman](#) was very impotunate to be permitted to go, and was therefore indulged; [she](#) observed that [she](#) had traveled a long way with us to see the great waters, and that now that monstrous fish was also to be seen, [she](#) thought it very hard [she](#) could not be permitted to see either ([she](#) had never yet been to the Ocean).

### March 22, 1806 Ordway

At the Mandans Toussaint Sharbono and his [Indian woman & child](#) joined as Interpreters and [Interprets](#) to the Snake Indians

### April 16, 1806 Lewis

About 8 A. M. Capt. Clark passed the river with the two interpreters, the [indian woman](#) and nine men in order to trade with the natives for their horses...

### April 22, 1806 Lewis

being now confident that the indians had taken it (a robe) I sent the [Indian woman](#) on to request Capt. C. to halt the party and send back some of the men to my assistance being determined either to make the indians deliver the robe or burn

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their houses... I now returned and joined Capt Clark who was waiting my arrival with the party. the [Indian woman](#) had not reached Capt C. untill about the time I arrived and he returned from a position on the top of a hill not far from where he had halted the party...

### April 28, 1806 Lewis

we found a Shoshone woman, prisoner among these people by means of whome and [Sahcahgarweah](#) we found the means of conversing with the Wollah-wollahs

### April 28, 1806 Clark

We found a Sho Sho ne woman, prisoner among those people by means of whome and [Sah-cah gah-weah](#), Shabono's wife we found means of Converceing with the Wallahwallârs.

### May 2, 1806 Whitehouse

The hunting party found several pieces of red Cloth, at an Indian Camp; which we expect the Indians had left there, the last winter, as a Sacrafice to their maker, the [Indian woman](#) mention'd is the custom when they break up their encampment, & which shows that they have some knowledge of the supreme being

### May 11, 1806 Clark

The One Eyes Chief Yoom-park-kar-tim arived and we gave him a medal of the Small Size and Spoke to the Indians through a Snake boy [Shabono and his wife](#).

### May 16, 1806 Lewis

our sick men are much better today. [Sahcargarmeah](#) geathered a quantity of the roots of a speceis of fennel which we found very agreeable food

### May 16, 1806 Clark

[Shabonos Squar](#) gatherd a quantity of fenel roots which we find very paleatiabile and nurishing food.

### May 18, 1806 Lewis

our [indian woman](#) was busily engaged today in laying in a store of the fennel roots for the Rocky mountains...

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### May 18, 1806 Clark

The [Squar wife](#) to Shabono busied her Self gathering the roots of the fenel Called by the Snake Indians Year-pah for the purpose of drying to eate on the Rocky mountains.

### June 15, 1806 Clark

our [Indian woman](#) Sick & low Spirited. I gave [her](#) the bark & apply it exteranally to [her](#) region which revived her much. ... the [Indian woman](#) much wors this evening, [She](#) will not take any medison, [her](#) husband petetions to return &c

### June 16, 1806 Lewis

found the [Indian woman](#) extreemly ill and much reduced by [her](#) indisposition. this gave me some concern as well for the poor object [herself](#), then with a young child in her arms, as from the consideration of [her](#) being our only dependence for a friendly negociation with the Snake Indians on whom we depend for horses to assist us in our portage from the Missouri to the columbia River

### June 16, 1806 Clark

the [Indian woman](#) verry bad, & will take no medisin what ever, untill [her](#) husband finding her out of her Senses, easily provailed on [her](#) to take medison, if [She](#) dies it will be the fault of [her](#) husband as I am now convinced... one of the small canoes was left below this rappid in order to pass and repass the river for the purpose of hunting as well as to procure the water of the Sulpher spring, the virtues of which I now resolved to try on the [Indian woman](#)...

### July 1, 1806 Lewis

from hence Sergt Ordway with a party of 9 men are to decend the river with the canoes; Capt C. with the remaining ten including Charbono and York will proceed to the Yellowstone river at it's nearest approach to the three forks of the missouri, here he will build a canoe and decend the Yellowstone river with Charbono the [indian woman](#), his servant York and five others to the missouri where should he arrive first he will wait my arrival. Sergt Pryor with two other men are to proceed with the horses by land to the Mandans and thence to the British posts on the Assinniboin with a letter to Mr. Heney

### July 6, 1806 Clark

the after part of the day we passed on the hill Side N of the Creek for 6 Ms. Creek and entered an extensive open Leavel plain in which the Indian trail Scattered in Such a manner that we Could not pursue it. the [Indian woman](#) wife

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to Shabono informed me that [she](#) had been in this plain frequently and knew it well that the Creek which we descended was a branch of Wisdom river

[The Squar](#) pointed to the gap through which she said we must pass which was S. 56° E. She said we would pass the river before we reached the gap...

### July 9, 1806 Clark

[The Squar](#) brought me a Plant the root of which the natives eat. this root most resembles a Carrot in form and Size and Something of its colour, being of a pailer yellow than that of our Carrot, the Stem and leaf is much like the Common Carrot, and the taste not unlike. it is a native of moist land

### July 13, 1806 Clark

my party now Consists of the following persons Viz: Serjeant N. Pryor, Jo. Shields, G. Shannon William Bratton, Labiech, Windsor, H. Hall, Gibson, Interpreter Shabono [his wife](#) & Child and my man york; with 49 horses and a colt...

The [indian woman](#) who has been of great Service to me as a pilot through this Country recommends a gap in the mountain more South which I shall cross...

### July 14, 1806 Clark

here [the Squar](#) informed me that there was a large road passing through the upper part of this low plain from Madicins river through the gap which I was Stearing my Course to.

The [Indian woman](#) informs me that a fiew years ago Buffalow was very plenty in those plains & Vallies quit as the head of Jeffersons river, but fiew of them ever come into those Vallys of late years owing to the Shoshones who are fearfull of passing into the plains

### August 9, 1806 Clark

[The Squar](#) brought me a large and well flavoured Goose berry of a rich Crimsin Colour, and deep purple berry of the large Cherry of the Current Speces

### August 17, 1806 Clark

I offered to take his little Son a butifull promising Child who is 19 months old to which they both [himself & wife](#) wer willing provided the Child had been weened. they observed that in one year the boy would be Sufficiently old to leave [his mother](#) & he would then take him to me if I would be so freindly as to raise the Child for him in Such a manner as I thought proper, to which I agreed &c

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### John C. Luttig's Journal entry for Dec 20, 1812

In his journal statement for Sunday, December 20, 1812, John Luttig wrote: *Sunday the 20th, clear and moderate, our hunter say Rees went out and Killed 20 Cows head and foot was received this Evening, purchased a fine Dog of the Chajennes, this Evening the Wife of Charbonneau a Snake Squaw, died of a putrid fever she was a good and the best Women in the fort, aged abt 25 years she left a fine infant girl.* Source: Journal of a Fur-trading Expedition on the Upper Missouri 1812-1813, By John C. Luttig, Clerk of the Missouri Fur Company, Edited by Stella M. Drumm, St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society, 1920 (Page 106).

According to this estimate of age, Sacajawea would have been born about 1787 and would have been about 18 when she started on the expedition in 1805. It is difficult to determine the accuracy of these estimates since Luttig's knowledge of her age could have been inaccurate. Tribal people did not have an established custom for the concept of an 'age.'

A July 30, 1805 Journal entry by Whitehouse states she was captured at Three Forks, 3-4 years earlier. This would make the dates of her capture as 1801-1802. She would have been 14 or 15 at the time of her capture (if Luttig's estimate of her age is correct and Whitehouse is correct).



## Sacagawea: Factual Information from Original Sources

### Clark's Cash Book (1825 - 1828)

From: The Indianization of Lewis and Clark By William R. Swagerty 2012 (page 693).\* The following is a table of names with the data from Clark's Cash Book. A photocopy of the page is included after the table.

Meriwether Lewis	Dead	Silas Goodrich	Dead
John Ordway	Dead	Thomas Proctor Howard	Illegible
Charles Floyd	Dead	Francois (William) Labiche	Illegible
Patrick Gass	Illegible	Jean Baptiste Lepage	Dead
Nathaniel Pryor	at Fort illegible	Hugh McNeal	Dead
Toussaint Charbonneau	Illegible	John Potts	Killed
William E. Bratton	Ohio	Sacajawea	Dead
John Collins	Dead	George Shannon	Kentucky
John Colter	Dead	John Shields	Dead
Pierre Cruzatte	Killed	John B. Thompson	Illegible
George Drouillard (Drewyer),	Killed	Peter M. Weiser	Killed
Joseph Fields	Dead	William Werner	Illegible
Reuben Fields	Illegible	Joseph Whitehouse	Illegible
Robert Frazier	Illegible	Alexander Hamilton Willard	Illegible
George Gibson	Dead	Richard Windsor	Illinois

\*This document is extremely difficult to read, and I could find no transcription on the internet, so I attempted one myself. Please accept my apologies for any errors.

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Men of Lewis & Clark  
 Capt. Lewis Dead  
 Odoway Dead  
 N. Pryor at Fort Smith  
 2<sup>d</sup> Winder on Sangamon Ill  
 J. Shannon Perry Co Mo  
 Th. Field near Louisville  
 W. Brattle near Green Ohio  
 M. Lalieche T. Louis  
 R. Ferguson a Gasconade  
 W. Floyd Dead  
 P. Gaps Dead  
 J. Collins do  
 J. Collier do  
 P. Crezate Killed  
 J. Field do  
 J. Goodrich Dead  
 G. Gibson Dead  
 J. P. Howard  
 H. Holt  
 H. McNeal Dead  
 L. Shields do  
 J. Potts Killed  
 J. D. Page Dead  
 O. Thomas Killed  
 W. Turner do  
 P. Miller Killed  
 J. Shelton  
 W. P. P. do  
 J. P. do

Al<sup>o</sup> Willard  
 Geo. Drelund Killed  
 Louis Charton Mo  
 Sa. Curja was Dead  
 T. Curja was in  
 Wertenburgs. do

The Indianization of Lewis and Clark By William R. Swagerty 2012 (page 693)

Photocopy of Clark's Cash Book 1825-1828



**Sacajawea Monument, Salmon, Idaho**